Consolidated Mining and Civil (CMC) managing director Steve Radford pictured in 2015 with some of the machinery that was destined for the Portia gold mine that his company will take full control of tomorrow.

**PICTURE: Gavin Schmidt**

Gold mine takeover

Radford company in charge of Portia

Havilah Resources is to give full control of the Portia gold mine to partner Consolidated Mining and Civil (CMC), which says it could prolong the life of the operation.

The two companies have reached agreement to restructure the mining and processing agreement that was struck in 2015, which saw them join forces to develop the small open pit mine in South Australia.

Havilah says the change, which will take effect tomorrow, would allow it to focus on progressing other projects in its pipeline, including the nearby Kalkaroo copper-gold deposit.

Under the current deal, CMC carries out the mining work and Havilah contributes towards the cost of processing the material, with revenue split equally.

The new agreement will see CMC receive 85 per cent of all revenue from the sale of gold and cover all mining, processing and capital expenses.

Havilah, which will retain ownership of the processing plant and continue to offer specialised technical assistance, will receive 15 per cent of all revenue.

Production at Portia has fallen significantly this year. It virtually halved in July and was down 18 per cent for the previous three months.

Havilah’s managing director Chris Giles blamed the fall on the inconsistent nature of the deposit which he described as “very fickle”.

Handing over the day-to-day control of the mine to CMC would allow it to respond more quickly to variations in ore grade and potentially extract more ounces of gold from the mine, according to Havilah.

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Keen minds recognised with Victor Chang award

Two Broken Hill students have received high recognition for their passion for science. Broken Hill High School’s Neve Robins and Willyama’s Kelsey Graham were presented with the The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute Award yesterday at Council Chambers for their exemplar attitude towards science, as reflected by their achievements at school.

The girls were nominated by their teachers, and are two of some 200 students from across NSW to receive the award this year.

Both said they were thrilled to receive the award, with Kelsey interested in biology and Neve interested in chemisty especially.

“I know about the award after Lauren from my school got it last year and I always thought, wow, that would be a great opportunity and a great honour to receive that award, so it’s amazing that I was able to do so,” Neve said.

“Hearing about all the sorts of breakthroughs that they’re making at the Victor Chang Institute is definitely the sort of thing that I want to be involved in after school,” she said.

“The speech that the Institute’s Professor Jamie Vendenberg gave about the sort of things they’re doing at the institute is right up my alley and what I want to go into.”

As part of the award they girls will get a tour of the Victor Chang Institute in Sydney, and speak to some of the scientists there researching cures for cardiovascular diseases.

Neve said she was definitely looking forward to the tour.

“I’ve had tours of other facilities before and they really give you a feel for the science industry and what I want to go into,” she said.

“It gets me really interested and really excited for my own future and where I want to go.”

Professor Jamie Vendenberg from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute said it was great to see young people so passionate about science, and especially young people from country areas.

He said the old saying about children being the future is especially true in the field of science.

“We need to encourage as many young people as we can to pursue careers in science and technology. It’s critical to almost everything we do in society,” Professor Vendenberg said.

“People out in the country have a different perspective in life, and things aren’t necessarily handed over on a platter like they might be in the city;”

“Somewhere like Broken Hill where they’re surrounded by mining which has got to do with science and technology, in some ways they get to see it up front and close at hand much more than people in the city do.”

From Front Page

“CMC have proven themselves to be very competent mine and plant operators and we have no hesitation in leaving the day to day operations in their capable hands,” managing director Chris Giles said.

“Being in full control we expect CMC will be able to recover the remaining oxidised gold ore more efficiently from the Portia open pit as well as from the tailings, once permitted, for the benefit of both parties.”

“As a consequence, we expect to receive a steady gold revenue stream from Portia for the next twelve months and beyond, with no risk of outgoing cash flow exposure.

“For us it also means that we can now focus on executing of our Copper Growth Strategy which represents the next important development phase for Havilah,” he said.

Dr Giles said the new arrangement was a “logical progression” from the original revenue sharing arrangement.

CMC’s managing director Steve Radford said his company also had the potential to now reduce and consolidate operating costs at the mine.

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Portia gold mine takeover

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